

THE

VITAL QUESTION

Book, Lyrics
and Music by
JOHN STARK

AN OPERETTA IN ONE ACT
(MAY BE USED IN TWO)

• MUSICAL NUMBERS •

WEEVILY WHEAT—an old time song and dance
TWO ORIOLES SAT ON A HAWTHORN TREE—a parallel case
OF ALL THE RANK DELUSIONS—a bass song
THE PUSSY CAT SONG—an allegory
OH, DOLOROUS DAY—the victim's story
A CASE OF ROMEO—the argument
A WISE OLD HEN—a hypothetical case
THE RUBES OF NEW YORK—
OLD MAN, YOUR HAIR IS GRAY
MARY MOORE—
THE AFFINITY—pro and con—Finale

Stark Music Co.
SAINT LOUIS, MO.

Try this on your Piano.

To Little Marie Adams.

A CITY FAR AWAY.

Words by
CADDIE Mc DONALD.

Music by
LUTHER ADAMS.

Valse Lento.

rall.



Pa - pa, where is my ma - ma Why did she
Pa - pa, how far is Heav - en? I'd like to

The vocal melody is written on a single staff with lyrics. The piano accompaniment is on two staves below. The tempo is marked 'f a tempo'.

go a - way? Ev - 'ry night I'm so lone -
go there too; Just to see my dear ma -

The vocal melody continues on a single staff with lyrics. The piano accompaniment is on two staves below, continuing the harmonic support.

For Sale wherever music is sold.

Old man your hair is turning gray.

Lem—You are right. Well met Uncle Henry You are the one we were wishing to see. 'Tis said that wisdom comes with gray hairs. We would—ah!

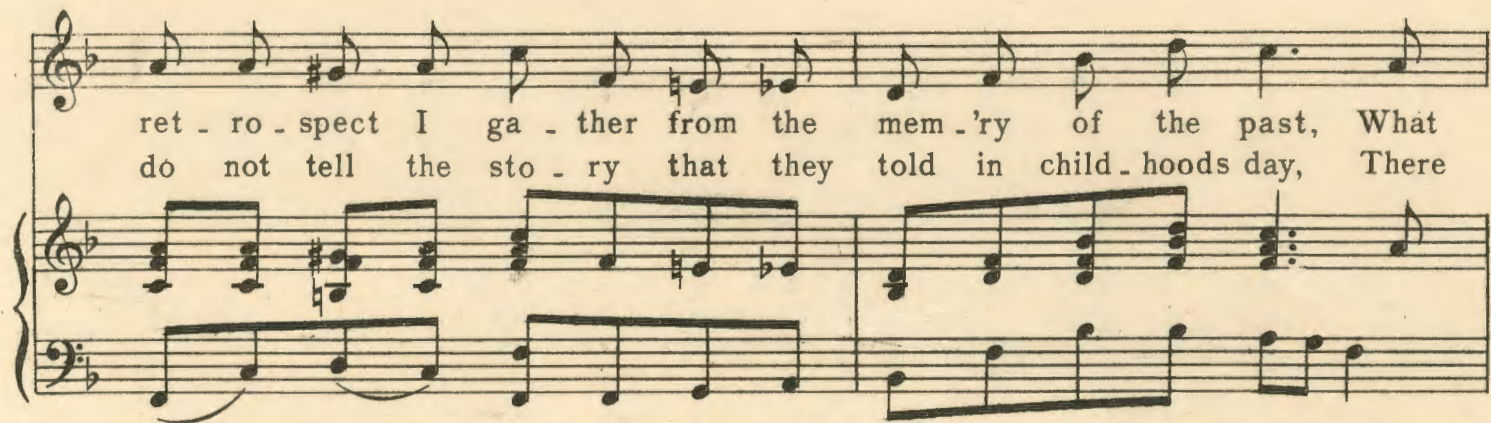
U. H.—Ah! gray hairs. I am constantly reminded of my gray hairs. I feel them in the attitude of all mankind. I hear them in the song of bird. The autumn winds whisper of them in solemn cadencies (Sings):

Words and Music by

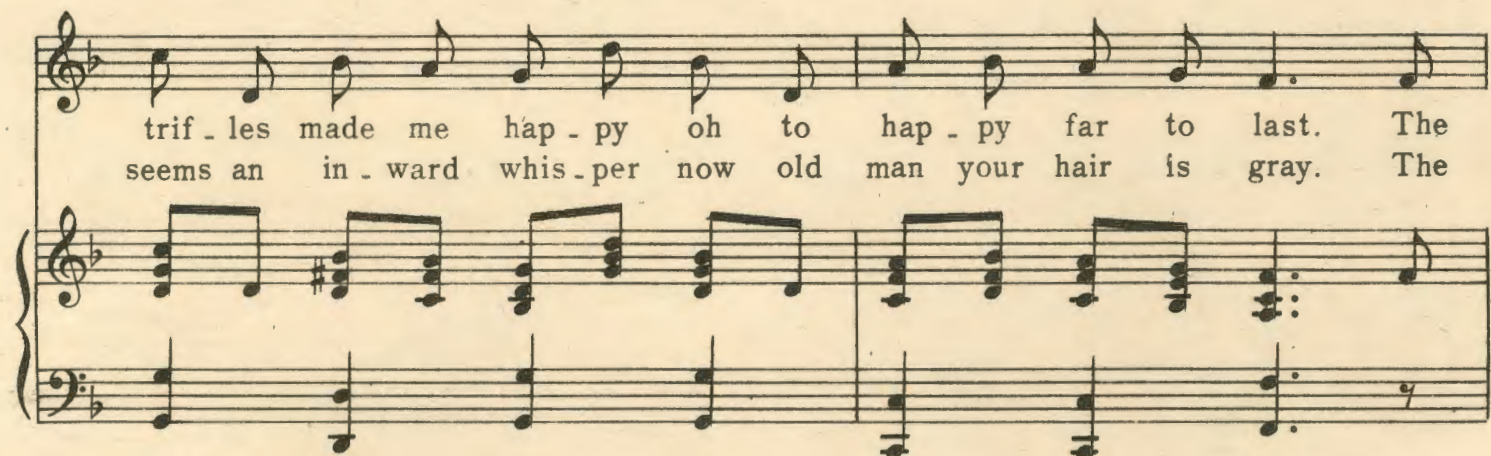
S. G. Rhodes.

Andante.

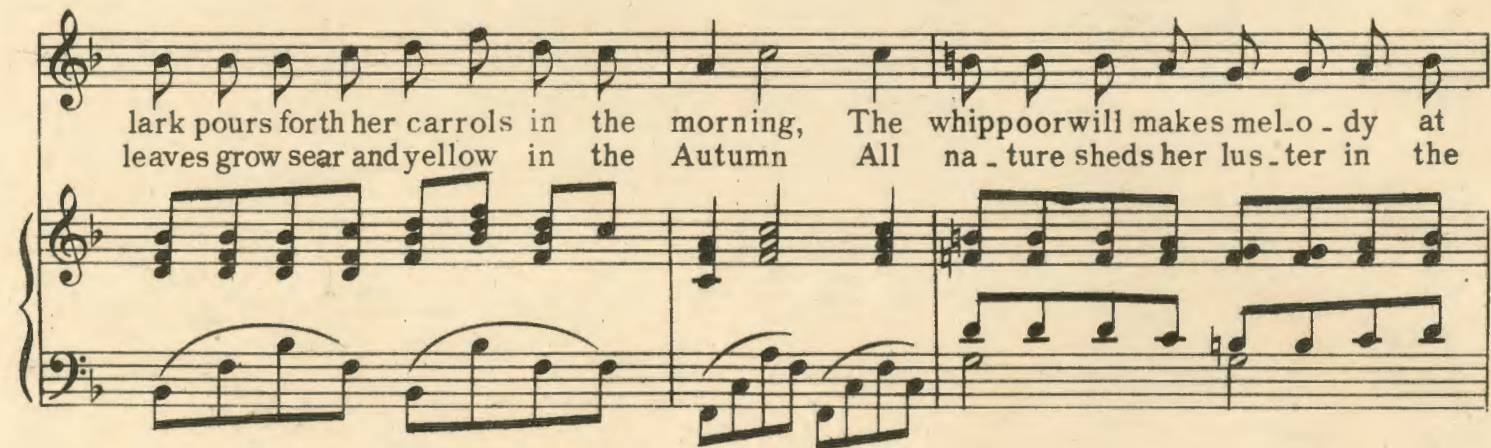
The years are pass-ing swift-ly now my hair is turn-ing gray The
 The same glad sounds that cheered me at the age of nine or ten, Are
 fol-lies I de-light-ed in have lost their charm to-day. In
 ring-ing through the streets and lanes as mer-ry now as then, They



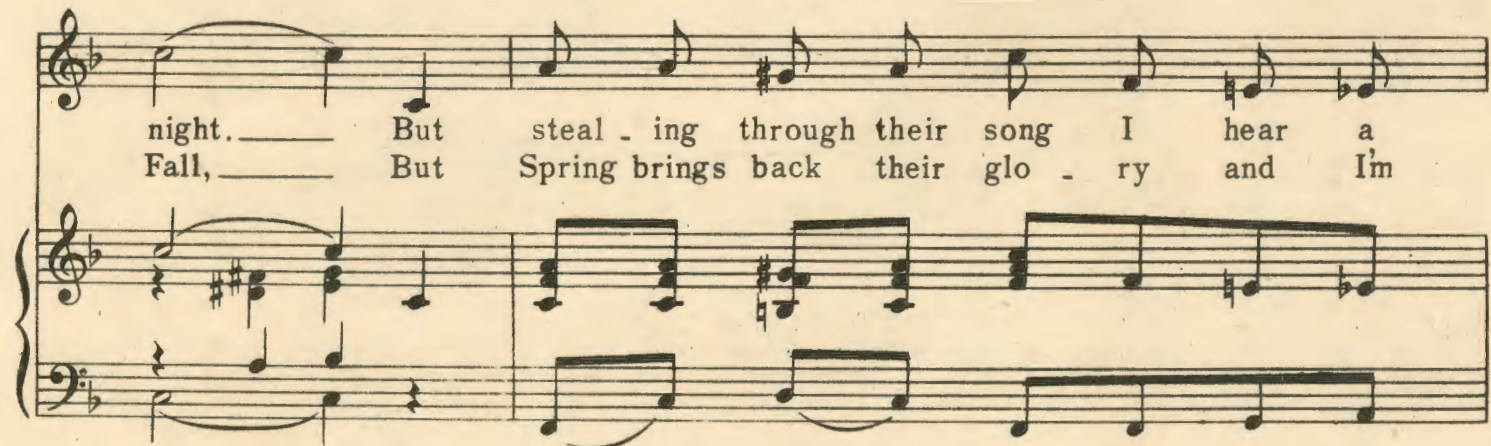
ret - ro - spect I ga - ther from the mem - 'ry of the past, What
do not tell the sto - ry that they told in child - hoods day, There



trif - les made me hap - py oh to hap - py far to last. The
seems an in - ward whis - per now old man your hair is gray. The



lark pours forth her carols in the morning, The whippoorwill makes mel - o - dy at
leaves grow sear and yellow in the Autumn All na - ture sheds her lus - ter in the



night. _____ But steal - ing through their song I hear a
Fall, _____ But Spring brings back their glo - ry and I'm

mel-an-cho-ly lay, Stop, think, old man your hair is turn-ing gray. ———
hop-ing for a day When none can say your hair is turn-ing gray. ———

CHORUS.

Is there life be-yond the dark dark riv-er, ——— Is there

youth and joy that ev-er stay. Is there ev-er-last-ing day-where they'll

nev-er nev-er say Old man your hair is gray. ———



Some years ago, or more, 'tis said, the subtle harpist, Orpheus, Played Hades' plutocratic Boss into the arms of morpheus, Then sneaked away his Euredice, but as he left perdition, He lost the radiant maiden by not heeding the condition, Had Orpheus played these "classic rags", he'd pulled the lassie through, Not only Euredice, but all the flabbergasted crew.

DREAMLAND WALTZ.	Curtaz
EVENING STAR—Staple as flour. A steady seller.	Kirwin
FAIRY TALES WALTZ.	Mohr
FERN LEAVES—To the very merry. You will like it.	Barnes
HEARTS LONGING—The best of all late Waltzes.	Scott
KALMIA WALTZ.	O. B. Ligato
LIGHT OF HOPE—A popular waltz with fine title page.	Kirwin
LOVE'S PLEADING—Used extensively by teachers. A standard waltz.	Kirwin
SERAPHINE—Dreamy Mexican style. Pretty.	Hunter
UNDER TWO FLAGS—A companion to Castle Square.	Brownold
Good.	Scott
VALSE VENICE.	Willett
VERDA—A fine flowing waltz with a Spanish suggestion.	

TWO-STEP AND CHARACTERISTIC PIECES.

AMERICAN GUARDS—Good and easy, but sounds difficult.	Kirwin
ANTOINETTE—One of Joplin's twilight dreams. A beauty bright.	Scott Joplin
ATHENA—A Tarantelle. Ingenious and catchy.	Elma Barret
BERCEUSE—From Jocelyn.	Godard
CHALLMETTE MAZURKA.	O. B. Ligato
CRUSADERS—Bright and fresh as the song of a thrush. A hit.	M. York
DAINTYFOOT.	Bruggeman
DAWN OF LIBERTY.	Rafayala
DERBY WINNER—Effervescent. A hot two-step.	M. York
DIRECTOR'S MARCH—Unusual effects. A good march	Brownold
FIRE FLY SCHOTISCHE.	Tawney
FORGOTTEN—Breathes the sentiment intensely. You want it.	M. York
JOHN HENRY—A positively thrilling two-step.	E. J. Stark
MARCH MAJESTIC—One of the best things written by Joplin.	Scott Joplin
MILITARY PARADE.	Chapman
MISSOURI NATIONAL GUARDS.	Stark
M. M. A. CADETS.	Stark
NEUBIA	Williams

PEGASUS—Great two step.	Robert Stirling
REVEL OF THE CRICKETS—A brilliant polka caprice.	E. J. Stark
ROSEBUD MARCH—A 6-8 stunt in Joplin harmony.	Scott Joplin
SALUTE TO THE VEILED PROPHETS.	Hall
SOUTHLAND INTERMEZZO—There is something in this piece that talks to you. You always play it at least twice.	Randle
SUNLIGHT POLKA.	Besley
TAGS POLKA.	O. B. Ligato
THE CARNIVAL—You will remember this Rondo when you have heard it but once.	St. John
TWILIGHT—A Fower Song Meditation.	E. J. Stark
VILLAGE CHIMES CAPRICE—Very showy. Not difficult.	Kerwin
WINGED VICTORY—A great 6-8 two-step.	E. J. Stark
W. M. A. CADETS.	Stocker

SONGS OF ALL SENTIMENT.

A CITY FAR AWAY—One of the sweetest songs ever written.	
AS THE IVY TRUSTS THE OAK—A sentimental song of of the higher cult. It harps the thrill of Cupid's touch exquisitely.	Lieurance
BEFORE THE DAWN—A high-class song by the poet composer.	Hellene
BY THE DREAMY MISSISSIPPI—An idea spot forsooth.	DeLisle
DEAR OLD CONEY ISLE.	Hanch
DOWN AT THE PICTURE SHOW.	Green
DREAM PILLOW—Lullaby.	Cal Stark
DRIVE AWAY TO DREAMTOWN.	Hanch
FAIR AND GLOOM—A high-class song by the poet composer.	Hellene
I AIN'T GOT NOBOD.	Brando
I AM FOR YOU.	Chas. Humfeld
IN THE BEAUTIFUL LAND OF DREAM.	McKean
I'LL TAKE A LITTLE RAGTIME—A hilarious song.	Vessey
IT TAKES ME BACK TO THE OLD FOLK AT HOME.	Johnson
JEAN—The old story in a new dress. Jean is "It".	Crause
JUST A WORD FROM HOME—A pathetic story well told.	Gardner
KANSAS CITY KANSAS FRANCES—A stunning vaudeville song.	Fisher
LETS GO OUT TO DREAMLAND	
MAPLE LEAF—Vocal arrangement of the world's most famous rag.	Scott Joplin
MY ALABAMA HOME—The most beautiful sentimental song published in many years.	Stanley
MY SUMMER MOON.	Willett
MY DEAR OLD SOUTHERN HOME—One of the best heart & home songs ever written, published or sung.	Shafer
MY ROSE—Playfully sentimental. A beautiful song.	Stocker
NEAR THE OLD SUSQUEHANNA—One of the sweetest songs extant.	Rebout
NOBODY KNOWS WE'RE LOVIN' BUT YOU and THE MOON.	Ougnst
OZARK SCHOOL HOUSE.	Hauch
PEARLIE HURLEY—Serio comic. Bright and breezy.	
RAGTIME DANCE—A song and dance of twenty minutes duration. Great.	Scott Joplin
RAINDROP AND THE PANSY—From the opera "Ah Sid." Good stuff.	E. J. Stark
SENORITA MULDOON.	R. B. Stirling
SHE'LL NEVER LOVE AGAIN.	Crause
SPOONING IN AN AUTOMOBILE—Nothing better in a comic song.	Royal
SUE—The name is sudden but the song lingers longer. Great.	Stocker
THAT GOSH DING HIRAM TUNE.	Pratt
THAT PIPE ORGAN RAG.	Rhodes
THE GAL THAT NEVER LOVED—I doubt it, begorry.	Fisher
WHERE NELLIE AND I USED TO PLAY.	Johnson
WHERE MOUNT TACOMA OVERLOOKS THE BAY—"It might have been."	Royal
YOUR TALK WON'T GET YOU NOTHING—A lollapaloo. She got a lemon.	Hauch

A grim-visaged pessimist must the person be who cannot find something in the above list to smother life's troubled sea, and fan the embers of hope, to touch the tickle bone of fancy and scatter the brooding fears of troubles that are to be but never come.

We do not say of the above list as we do most emphatically say of our ragtime—that they are the best on earth. But we do say they are in the top line, equal to any, and we await your verdict. It's up to you.